

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FIRST INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON MIGRANT WORKERS
IN MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES

REF: GUADALAJARA 0832
GUADALAJARA 0939

1. SUMMARY: THE FIRST TWO DAYS OF A SCHEDULED FOUR DAY SYMPOSIUM
ON MIGRATORY WORKERS IN MEXICO AND THE U. S. HAVE CONCLUDED AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF GUADALAJARA. THE TENOR OF THE SESSIONS HAS BEEN
GENERALLY ACADEMIC THOUGH THEY HAVE SERVED AS A FORUM FOR OCCASIONAL
GENERALIZED CLAIMS OF SUCH THINGS AS ANTI-MEXICAN WORKER
DISCRIMINATION IN THE U.S. THE SESSIONS HAVE BEEN CLOSELY
FOLLOWED AND REPORTED BY LOCAL MEDIA. END OF SUMMARY.

2. THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON MIGRANT WORKERS IN MEXICO
AND THE UNITED STATES (SEE REFTEL) CONCLUDED ITS SECOND DAY OF
WORKING SESSIONS JULY 12 IN GUADALAJARA AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND
AUDIENCE PARTICIPATIONS HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY ANIMATED.
THE SYMPOSIUM WAS INAUGURATED JULY 11 BY UNIVERSITY OF GUADALAJARA
RECTOR ZAMBRANO. THE UNIVERSITY OF GUADALAJARA IS SPONSORING THE
SYMPOSIUM TOGETHER WITH UCLA'S CENTER FOR CHICANO STUDIES. RECTOR
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ZAMBRANO SPOKE OF THE "EXILE" OF FELLOW CONTRYmen IN THE
UNITED STATES AND EMPHASIZED THE UNIQUENESS OF MEXICAN IMMIGRATION
TO THE UNITED STATES AS COMPARED TO IMMIGRATION FLOWS INTO THE
COUNTRY FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD BOTH IN THE PAST AND IN THE
PRESENT. ZAMBRANO STATED THAT MEXICO HAD TO ACCELERATE ITS
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOTH IN AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY IN ORDER
TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT EMPLOYMENT TO ITS PEOPLE. HE CONCLUDED

BY ASSERTING THAT THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO SHOULD STRIVE FOR A CONTINUATION OF THEIR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE BASED ON A RELATIONSHIP OF DIGNITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT.

3. DR. JUAN GOMEZ QUINONES, DIRECTOR OF UCLA'S CENTER FOR CHICANO STUDIES ALSO SPOKE DURING THE INAUGURAL CEREMONIES, STATING THAT HIS UNIVERSITY WAS TAKING AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF MEXICAN WORKERS IN THE UNITED STATES, PARTICULARLY MIGRANT WORKERS. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR STUDY OF THE MIGRATION SITUATION BOTH IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN MEXICO.

4. THE FIRST DAY OF DISCUSSIONS DEALT WITH THE TOPIC OF MEXICO'S AGRARIAN PROBLEMS AND THE GENERATION OF MIGRANT LABOR. SPEAKERS CRITICIZED MEXICO'S AGRICULTURE AS BEING GEARED MORE TO COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES (I.E. EXPORT) RATHER THAN FACING THE NEED TO MAKE THE COUNTRY SELF-SUFFICIENT IN ITS FOOD SUPPLY AND PROVIDING SUFFICIENT EMPLOYMENT TO THE FARM WORKERS. COMMENTS FROM THE REVIEWING PANEL AND THE AUDIENCE INCLUDED CALLS FOR A RESTRUCTURING NOT ONLY OF MEXICO'S AGRICULTURE BUT OF THE ECONOMY IN GENERAL IN ORDER TO MAKE MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE COUNTRY'S PRESSING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC NEEDS.

5. PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROPOSED PLAN TO PERMIT CERTAIN UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS TO REMAIN IN THE UNITED STATES FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE YEARS WAS SEEN AS A MOVE TO OBTAIN THE FRUITS OF THEIR LABOR WITHOUT GRANTING THE RIGHT TO A PERMANENT LEGAL STATUS IN THE COUNTRY.

6. THE SECOND DAY'S DISCUSSION ADDRESSED INTERNAL MIGRATIONS IN MEXICO. MEXICO'S INTERNAL MIGRATIONS AND MIGRATIONS TO THE UNITED STATES WERE SEEN AS BEING CLOSELY RELATED. THE MIGRATION OF UNCLASSIFIED

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WORKERS FROM MEXICO'S COUNTRYSIDE TO ITS CITIES WAS SEEN AS A WAY TO OBTAINING INEXPENSIVE LABOR IN THE CITIES, PARTICULARLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE URBAN MIDDLE AND UPPER INCOME LEVEL GROUPS. AN ANALOGY WAS MADE WITH THE FLOW OF MEXICAN WORKERS TO THE UNITED STATES WHERE THIS GROUP ALLEGEDLY PROVIDED INEXPENSIVE LABOR TO THE BUSINESS SECTOR AND OTHER EMPLOYERS IN CERTAIN PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

7. ONE SPEAKER STRONGLY CRITICIZED UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IMMIGRATION POLICY AS RESPONDING TO PRESSURES FROM BUSINESS. HE STATED THAT THE U. S. WOULD ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN MEXICO IN THE WAY MOST PRODUCTIVE TO THE AMERICAN PRIVATE SECTOR. SPEAKER (A U.S. PROFESSOR) STATED THAT IT WAS DOUBTFUL THAT INTERANATIONAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO WOULD SOLVE THE UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRATION.

FLOW TO THE UNITED STATES IN THE SHORT RUN AND DECLARED THAT U. S. LONG TERM POLICY WOULD BE TO REINFORCE THE DEPENDENCY OF THE MEXICAN ECONOMY ON THE U.S. THIS SPEAKER AND SOME COMMENTATORS EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT ADDITIONAL EMPHASIS HAD TO BE PLACED ON STUDYING THE IMPORTANCE AND RELEVANCY OF DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES (I.E. RAPID POPULATION GROWTH) TO MEXICO'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TO THE UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRATION PROBLEM.

8. ANOTHER U. S. PROFESSOR COMMENTED THAT AN UNCONDITIONAL AMNESTY SHOULD BE FRANTED TO ALL UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS CURRENTLY

IN THE UNITED STATES (THIS MET WITH A HIGHLY FAVORABLE RESPONSE FROM THE AUDIENCE). HE FURTHER STATED THAT MEXICO SHOULD BE GRANTED PREFERENTIAL IMMIGRATION TREATMENT BY THE U. S. AND THAT THE LEVEL OF IMMIGRATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES BE DETERMINED ON THE BASIS OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE MEXICAN AND U.S. GOVERNMENTS.

9. ANOTHER COMMENT FROM THE AUDIENCE (BY A MEXICAN NATIONAL) EXPRESSED THE IDEA THAT THE CHICANO IDENTITY WAS NOT SELF-DEVELOPED BUT IMPOSED BY THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM IN THE U. S. SINCE THIS SUITED THE PARTICULAR NEED TO MAKE THE GROUP STAND OUT AS BEING NEITHER "AMERICAN" NOR "MEXICAN" AND FACILITATING ITS MANIPULATION. THIS IDEA WAS VIGOROUSLY CONTESTED BY SEVERAL CHICANO PANELISTS AND MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE.

10. THE THIRD DAY'S SESSION WILL DEAL WITH U. S.-MEXICAN BORDER
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PROBLEMS AND THE FINAL DAY WILL BE DEVOTED TO THE ROLE OF THE MEXICAN (RESIDENT AND UNDOCUMENTED) IN THE UNITED STATES.
NOTE: A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE U. S. IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE IS ATTENDING THE SYMPOSIUM. THIS FACT WAS NOT PREVIOUSLY TRANSMITTED TO EITHER THE EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDING THE MEETING.
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